

Application No. 10/054,522
Filed: January 22, 2002
Group Art Unit: 2151

REMARKS

This Preliminary Amendment is made following receipt of the International Search Report in the corresponding International Application, which cited United States Patent number 6,195,356 of Anello et al., and United States Patent number 5,812,533 of Cox et al. Applicants respectfully submit that nowhere in the combination of Cox et al. and Anello et al. is there disclosed or suggested any system or method for identifying a physical address associated with a virtual address which includes forming a request message including the virtual address and a virtual network identifier value, *wherein said virtual network identifier value is stored in a field within a header of said request message separate from said virtual address*, the virtual network identifier value associated with a virtual network, and the virtual network having a private address space including said virtual address, as is set forth in each of the present independent claims 1, 8 and 15. In contrast, Cox et al. includes no mention of header contents, and describes a system in which a directory number is a virtual network number, and the directory number identifies a user on a virtual network. Moreover, in Anello et al., the header information is described only as including layer 2 (MAC address) and layer 3 (IP address) information.

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The Examiner is encouraged to telephone the undersigned attorney to discuss any matter that would expedite allowance of the present application.

Respectfully submitted,

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MARKED-UP VERSION OF CLAIM AMENDMENTS

1. (Amended) A method for identifying a physical address associated with a virtual address, wherein said physical address is associated with a network interface of a network device, wherein said virtual address is also associated with said network device, comprising:

forming a request message, said request message including said virtual address and a virtual network identifier value, wherein said virtual network identifier value is stored in a field within a header of said request message separate from said virtual address, said virtual network identifier value associated with a virtual network, said virtual network having a private address space including said virtual address;

transmitting said request message over a communication link; receiving a response to said request message, said response including said physical address associated with said network interface of said network device; and

storing said physical address of said network device associated with said virtual address in an entry in a data structure, wherein said entry further includes said virtual network identifier and said virtual address.

8. (Amended) A system for identifying a physical address associated with a virtual address, wherein said physical address is associated with a network interface of a network device, wherein said virtual address is also associated with said network device, comprising:

at least one memory for storing program code;

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at least one processor, communicably coupled to said memory, said at least one processor operable to execute program code stored in said memory;

program code, stored in said memory, said program code for identifying said physical address associated with said virtual address, said program code including

program code for forming a request message, said request message including said virtual address and a virtual network identifier value, wherein said virtual network identifier value is stored in a field within a header of said request message separate from said virtual address, said virtual network identifier value associated with a virtual network, said virtual network having a private address space including said virtual address,

program code for transmitting said request message over a communication link,

program code for receiving a response to said request message, said response including said physical address associated with said network interface of said network device, and

program code for storing said physical address of said network device associated with said virtual address in an entry in a data structure, wherein said entry further includes said virtual network identifier and said virtual address.

15. (Amended) A system for identifying a physical address associated with a virtual address, wherein said physical address is associated with a network interface of a network device,

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wherein said virtual address is also associated with said network device, comprising:

means for forming a request message, said request message including said virtual address and a virtual network identifier value, wherein said virtual network identifier value is stored in a field within a header of said request message separate from said virtual address, said virtual network identifier value associated with a virtual network, said virtual network having a private address space including said virtual address;

means for transmitting said request message over a communication link;

means for receiving a response to said request message, said response including said physical address associated with said network interface of said network device; and

means for storing said physical address of said network device associated with said virtual address in an entry in a data structure, wherein said entry further includes said virtual network identifier and said virtual address.